Losses incurred by tourism industry due to terrorism

†217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleaded to state:

(a) the effects of the terrorist attack in Mumbai on the tourism industry of the country and the details of losses incurred by the tourism industry due to it;

(b) the number of foreign tourists visiting India after the terrorist attack in Mumbai country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bail out the tourism industry from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) from tourism in India during November 2008, December 2008 and January 2009 and the corresponding months of the previous year are given below.

Month	FTAs (million)	FEE (US$ million)	Month	FTAs (million)	FEE (US$ million)
November 2008	0.52	1005	November 2007	0.53	1149
December 2008	0.52	1046	December 2007	0.60	1287
January 2009	0.49	941	January 2008	0.59	1382

The lower FTAs and FEE in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

Data on country-wise FTAs in India during 2008 are not available.

(c) To minimize the negative impact of recent terrorist attacks in the country, Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps:-

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States;
- Indiatourism offices overseas are in regular contact with the international media and travel trade to keep them updated on the ground situation in the country.
- Familiarsation Tours for trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other regions of the country have been specially organized to project the ground realities relating to safety/ security conditions in the country. Trade/ Media representatives from USA, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have visited India during the months of December 2008 and January 2009 as a result of this initiative.

Development of barrier-free tourist destinations

218. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop tourist destinations barrier-free for the benefit of physically challenged and elderly persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi